

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

To me the hardest part of writing is getting started. What could I have to say that would interest the reader that he can't find somewhere else?

Virtually everyone reading this doesn't need to hear that our Huntsville Hamfest was one of the best ever: we were there. Literally. A huge percentage of North Alabama DX Club members helped in ways large & small, from planning the forum schedules or coordinating the floor-space to hosting forums to simply helping as a host – Hospitality Workers they call them.

Now it's time to turn the radios back on. Not much there at the moment but we're approaching an equinox and the start of DXpedition season. Keep an eye to Chuck's articles for what's in store.

It also time to turn the radios off. More precisely, it's always prudent to disconnect the station from those outside antennas when not in use. I won't steal their thunder (pun intended) but two member's stations suffered a significant electrostatic event this past month.

A reminder that our club picnic is this Saturday, September 12. We'll gather at Monte Sano State Park on Saturday, September 12 for fun, friendship, and food. Pot luck as in years past. We'll start throwing wires in trees for some portable operating around 9:30 AM and plan our meal around noon. When entering the park, mention you're with the "radio club" for free admission.

At our upcoming meeting we should have a report from the nominating committee with a slate of candidates clamoring for next year's office. If someone else wants to do this I'll gladly step aside, else I'll do it another year.

73,

Mark N4BCD

North Alabama DX Club - President

## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call  
Tom Duncan at  
(256)705-2147



Huntsville Hamfest 2015 at the 9:00 Saturday opening bell. Note M. D. Smith, WA4DXP, facing down the crowd ready to run him over on the way to the flea market (see arrow).

## August Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

### North Alabama DX Club Meeting Minutes for 11 August 2015

President Mark Brown N4BCD opened our meeting at the Golden Coral's private meeting room. There were 26 members and 3 guests in attendance.

The Huntsville Hamfest and DX Club Banquet were the leading topics. Banquet reminders had been sent to some mail lists: TCG, Southeaster DX Club, and Southeastern Contest Club, which netted a few more ticket sales.

We will hold our picnic on Saturday, September 12. Set-up at 9:30 at the bluff pavilion in the Monte Sano State Park picnic area [same as last year—Ed.]. Pot luck lunch will begin at 12:00. Tell the gate folks that you're with the radio club for free admission.

Mark your calendars for our Christmas party on December 8 at Terranova's.

### DX Worked:

Tom Duncan KG4CUY QTCs in WAE

Tim Wininger AB4B 39 EU QSOs on 6m +Rs Today

Tom Russell N4KG What's DX?

John Stensby N5DF Bands Dead!

Gary Agranat WA2JQZ JT65: TA2EM (Turkey), UN7BEW (Kazakhstan), CW: OH0X Aland Island (Finland)

Rob Suggs KB5EZ 3B8 Mauritius

Al Watson W4ABW ET3AA, R7AL/O, VYOM, R3RRC/O, VK2SSI, TI9/RA9USU

Bruce Smith AC4G Seychelles S79HN, 80, 40, 30 CW, 15 RTTY

### Treasurer's Report

Previous balance: \$5441.21

Check for Young Ham of the Year: - \$46.86

New balance: \$5394.35

Not yet posted to the account:  
PayPal deposit: \$476.70

Check deposit: \$73.50

Banquet tickets remaining: 16.

No membership applications were received.

There is no change to the NADX Club repeater W4QB status.

MD Smith WA4DXP gave a report on the recent local 2m Simplex Sprint contest, which was a hugely popular event. Our own Chris Reed KF4MMF won the top prize with his aeronautical mobile operations with the help of Tom Cash KI4VFV as their pilot. Chris Weir KM4KTC, one of our visitors, also won a prize in the sprint.

Tim Wininger AB4B announced the Alabama Contest Group's hospitality suite at the Homewood Suites Hotel beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday of the Hamfest weekend.

Warren KJ4RAQ and Karen Alford will be operating Hamfest Hospitality again this year. We are always grateful for your service.

We should begin looking at the DXpedition calendar of events coming up to consider which one(s) we might support. Some emails have been received requesting funding already. So far this

fiscal year, the club has disbursed \$200 to VP8 South Sandwich Islands from a budgeted \$400 amount. Our last discussion a few months ago we agreed to wait until after the Banquet to determine additional funding.

Officer elections are coming, and a nominating committee was "drawn" from the attendance sign-in sheets. The committee consists of John Stensby N5DF, Ralph King K1KOB, and Tim Wininger AB4B. The current officers agreed to serve another year with the exception of Vice-President Warren Alford KJ4RAQ, and President Mark Brown N4BCD would welcome a replacement, if one is found.

Volunteers for the Banquet:

A/V Equipment – Kevin KG4TEI

Welcome table – Kelley W4VPZ (check-in and drawing tickets)

Photographer – Chris KF4MMF will take pictures

NADXC Banner – Mark N4BCD will bring and hang

NEED – a volunteer to introduce Gregg Marco W6IZT (didn't get one)

The meeting was adjourned and followed by a program by Tom KG4CUY on using fiber-optics to improve RF immunity in his shack.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley V. Johns W4VPZ

NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

### NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/ Treasurer	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
At-large directors	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### The LongPath Staff

#### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

#### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

## NADXC Banquet—Huntsville Hamfest's Best-Kept Secret

By Mark Brown, N4BCD and Kelly Vann-Johns, W4VPZ

Following a full Saturday of Hamfest flea-marketing, forums, and vendor chats, 79 guests gathered at the Best Western in Madison, Alabama for the North Alabama DX Club's annual Banquet. A social hour with cash bar preceded the buffet dinner and then guests were treated to an informative and entertaining presentation on the K1N Navassa Island activation by DXpedition member Gregg Marco W6IZT.

Weekend Hamfest guests from as far away as Arkansas, Missouri, and North Carolina enjoyed the evening festivities.

The evening concluded with door prize drawings featuring a first prize Yaesu FTdx1200, and 11 other prizes exceeding \$2000. Special thanks go to prize sponsors: Yaesu, Gigaparts, DXEngineering, Ham Radio Deluxe, and Expert Linears America LLC.

We sold or comp'd 88 tickets, and had 79 diners. About 27 tickets were sold in the month of August; 3 of those were purchased through PayPal in the night on Friday night, and 5 at the Hamfest on Saturday.

The cash price for a ticket was \$38. PayPal takes a little fee with each

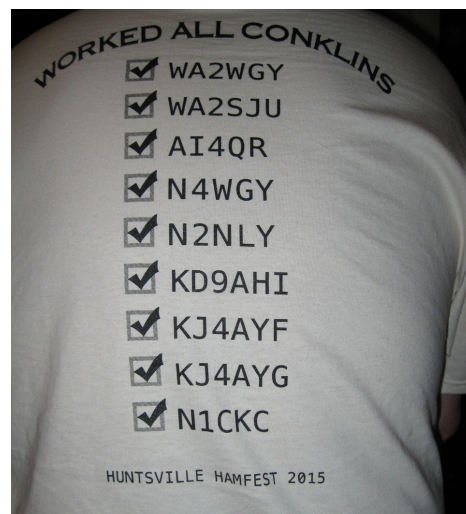
transaction, so a single ticket netted \$36.60, two \$73.50, three \$110.39, and four \$147.29 (there's no easy formula for that!).

Our total in-take was \$3005.07. The served meal and the facility costs with taxes totaled \$2227.94. We haven't reimbursed Mark and Bill for some taxes for the Gigaparts purchase and Gregg Marco's room

Each year the attendance of the event grows from the past year. Mark your calendar to attend next year's NADXC Banquet!



SIX members of the Conklin family spanning three generations attended the Hamfest & Banquet. From left to right: Jason Conklin N2NLY, Dick Conklin WA2WGY, Robert Conklin N4WGY, Nick Conklin N1CKC, Steve Conklin AI4QR, Dylan Couch KJ4AYG. On the right, the back of the Conklin tee-shirts.



## Using High-Frequency Terrain Analysis

September Program by Mark Brown, N4BCD

Just how much does that gentle slope downward from your tower, that mountain a quarter-mile away from your house, or the cliff from the top of Monte Sano where you're perched affect your pattern? How is "ground gain" a function of terrain? Mark has been practicing with HFTA (sister package to Transmission lines for Windows, and Yagi for Windows) and can give you some practical tips. Get to Golden Corral around 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Mark's presentation. See you there!





## NADXC Banquet—Huntsville Hamfest's Best-Kept Secret

(cont'd from p. 3)

	Item:	Donated by:	Won by:
1	Wrench & Socket Set	Bill & Sue Bathgate	KD5M
2	\$250 off coupon	Expert Amps	NC0B
3	\$900 off coupon	Expert Linears	Karen Allford
4	\$50 Gift Certificate	Yaesu	WB4CTW
5	\$50 Gift Certificate	Yaesu	W4PGM
6	\$50 Gift Certificate	Yaesu	W4ASA
7	\$100 Gift Certificate	DXEngineering	KLOET
8	\$100 Gift Certificate	DXEngineering	KS4YT
9	Ham Radio Deluxe software	HRD	KJ4RAQ
10	DXEngineering Deluxe Crimp Kit	DXEngineering	K4RHB
11	Yaesu Dual-Band HT & RT Systems sw	NADXC	W4BJN
12	Grand Prize Yaesu FTdx1200 HF 6m rig	Yaesu / Gigaparts / NADXC	K3LB

Prizes given out at the DX Banquet.



Bob Thomas KC4AF with Banquet speaker Gregg Marco W6IZT. Old timers will remember that the KC4AF callsign was used on the 1958 DXpedition to Navassa that included Wayne Green W2NSD.



Lyle Sands WB0MHH and Sharon Sands KE5EDQ of Hot Springs Village, AR celebrated their 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary at the Hamfest & DX Banquet.



DX Honor Roll members Tom Russel N4KG (left) and Steve Werner AG4W (right) chat with Rob Sherwood NC0B (center) of Sherwood Engineering.

## DX Contests for September

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### All Asian DX Contest, (SSB), 80 – 10M

Sept 5, 0000Z to Sept.6, 2400Z

Exchange: RS, & Age (YLS may send 00)

See page 81, Sept. QST and [jarl.or.jp/English](http://jarl.or.jp/English)

### Worked All Europe (WAE) DX Contest (SSB) 80 -10M

Sept 12, 0000Z to Sept 13, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 81, Sept. QST and [www.waedc.de](http://www.waedc.de)

### Scandinavian Activity Contest, (CW), 80 – 10M

Sept. 19, 1200Z to Sept, 20 1159Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial #

See page 81, Sept. QST and [www.sactest.net](http://www.sactest.net)

### CQ WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10M

Sept 26, 0000Z to Sept 27, 2359Z

Exchange: RST, State/Province, and CQ zone; DX sends RST and CQ zone

See page 81, Sept. QST and

[www.cqwwrtty.com](http://www.cqwwrtty.com)

### OTHERS:

#### Russian RTTY WW,

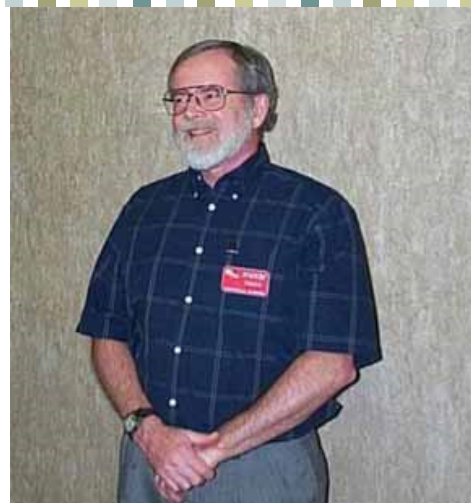
0000Z to 2400Z, Sept 5

#### Oceania DX Contest, SSB,

0800Z, Oct 3 to 0800Z, Oct 4

#### Oceania DX Contest, CW,

0800Z, Oct 10 to 0800Z, Oct 11



Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals. Beware.

Chuck, N4NM

## September Birthday—Michael Faraday

LongPath Staff

This month's LongPath birthday focus is on Michael Faraday, discoverer of electromagnetic induction: Faraday's Law is one component of Maxwell's equations. This discovery led to iron-core transformers, and the direct-current generator, or dynamo.

Although best known (certainly to hams) for his work with electromagnetism, Faraday was equally influential in electrochemistry, receiving his early training as an assistant to Sir Humphrey Davy. He helped Davy in studies of chlorine and compounds of carbon and chlorine.

Soon involved in glass making, Faraday discovered that the polarization plane of glass was effected by magnetic fields. In the picture to the right, he holds a glass cylinder exhibiting diamagnetism, another Faraday discovery.

(This is a familiar picture to me, and I thought he was holding a cigar until I furthered my education by writing this article. See what benefits accrue to LongPath writers!)

Like Oliver Heaviside, Faraday was born into poor circumstances and received very little formal education. He was apprentices to a bookbinder and seller at an early age and took the opportunity over those seven years to read whatever he could get his hands on, and thus educated himself.

Although having a unit of inductance named after him might have been more appropriate, Faraday had to settle for his name being shortened into the unit of capacitance. As a consolation prize, there is the faraday, a unit of charge related to the coulomb by the — you guessed it — Faraday Constant, the charge of one mole of electronics.



Faraday and the cigar he made famous.

Faraday died in 1867 at age 76. His likeness can still be found from time to time on well-worn £ 20 notes in England.